

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Spring 2019

SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MWF** **8:30AM – 9:20AM** *Aaron Vincent*

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Selected theoretical orientations, methodological procedures, and illustrative substantive data pertaining to the relations between the individual and society.

SOCIOLOGY 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MWF** **9:40AM – 10:30AM** *Zachery Butler*

TEXT: You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist, 4th Edition by Dalton Conley Also required is a digital product from the publisher of the text: "Inquizitive"

CONTENT: In this course you will be introduced to the discipline of sociology. By learning about sociological theories, terms, and methods, you can develop your own "Sociological Imagination." A way of looking at our social world that allows us to go beyond our everyday understanding to reveal the complexity of social processes.

REQUIREMENTS: 3 Exams (33%) Quizzes (50%) Inquizitive (17%)

FORMAT: Lectures, class discussions, and online activities

SOCIOLOGY 101.3: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MWF** **10:50AM – 11:40AM** *Stephen Chicoine*

This course provides an overview of the field of sociology. In addition to presenting the basic foundations of the field of sociology, students will learn how social relations, inequality, and institutions shape their day to day lives and the world around them.

SOCIOLOGY 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MWF** **12:00PM – 12:50PM** *Zachery Butler*

TEXT: You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist, 4th Edition by Dalton Conley Also required is a digital product from the publisher of the text: "Inquizitive"

CONTENT: In this course you will be introduced to the discipline of sociology. By learning about sociological theories, terms, and methods, you can develop your own "Sociological Imagination." A way of looking at our social world that allows us to go beyond our everyday understanding to reveal the complexity of social processes.

REQUIREMENTS: 3 Exams (33%) Quizzes (50%) Inquizitive (17%)

FORMAT: Lectures, class discussions, and online activities

SOCIOLOGY 101.5: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **8:30AM – 9:45AM** *Joseph Padgett*

This survey course will explore the way in which social interaction and social structures influence the lives of individuals. The course will begin with an overview of the origins of sociology and will cover a broad sampling of sociological research methods and perspectives. Both the role of science and activist trends in the discipline will be discussed and students will become familiar with the major explanatory paradigms used by sociologists to research and explain social life. Topics such as socialization, stratification, deviance, and social institutions will be addressed. Sociology provides a unique view and explanatory framework for understanding human behavior by addressing the reciprocal influences of individual and social behaviors on social structures and the effects of social structures on individual thoughts and behaviors. Students taking this course will begin to think critically about social processes and the research of social phenomena and complete the course with a firm foundation in sociology and how the discipline might serve them during their academic career and beyond.

SOCIOLOGY 101.6: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt

This course offers you an introduction to the theories, methodologies, vocabulary, and themes in the field of sociology. It will focus on the function and organization of society, as well as how society impacts and influences individual understanding, action, and well-being. Basic sociological ideas will be explored, such as culture, socialization, gender, race, and inequality. In addition, we will examine how social institutions, such as religion, family, health, and education, influence everyday life chances. The purpose of the course is to instill in you a “sociological imagination,” which can be used to decipher current social issues. The knowledge gained in this course will aid you in future studies in a variety of fields and careers, and encourage the development of critical thinking about important social issues.

SOCIOLOGY 101.8: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 1:15PM – 2:30PM Stephen Chicoine

This course provides an overview of the field of sociology. In addition to presenting the basic foundations of the field of sociology, students will learn how social relations, inequality, and institutions shape their day to day lives and the world around them.

SOCIOLOGY 101.9: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 2:50PM – 4:05PM Joseph Padgett

This survey course will explore the way in which social interaction and social structures influence the lives of individuals. The course will begin with an overview of the origins of sociology and will cover a broad sampling of sociological research methods and perspectives. Both the role of science and activist trends in the discipline will be discussed and students will become familiar with the major explanatory paradigms used by sociologists to research and explain social life. Topics such as socialization, stratification, deviance, and social institutions will be addressed. Sociology provides a unique view and explanatory framework for understanding human behavior by addressing the reciprocal influences of individual and social behaviors on social structures and the effects of social structures on individual thoughts and behaviors. Students taking this course will begin to think critically about social processes and the research of social phenomena and complete the course with a firm foundation in sociology and how the discipline might serve them during their academic career and beyond.

**SOCIOLOGY 101.H02: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 1:15PM – 2:30PM Professor Laura Brashears
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students**

Each of us has an idea of what is meant by the word “society:” the people we live with, the work we do, and the government agencies that touch our lives. We live in particular places, work at specific businesses, and belong to our own groups. And while we must experience society from our own individual perspectives, none of those individual perspectives can encompass the totality of each of our experiences. Sociologists seek to examine the social world through an objective lens, rising above individual experiences to understand the whole. In other words, sociologists do not take the world before their eyes for granted; rather, we use scientific methods to gain a deeper understanding of how “society is inside of man and man is inside society.”

No social endeavor is off-limits to sociologists; we study religion, education, the family, the self, crime, work, economics, politics, organizations, demographic shifts, gender, race and ethnicity and social movements, among other things. We even study how science itself operates as a social entity.

In this course, I will introduce you to a lot of facts that sociologists have collected within quite a few of these areas. While I think these facts are interesting, and important (or I wouldn't bother teaching them!), I am much more concerned with teaching you how to step back and examine your world from an “outsider's” perspective. In other words you will learn to use the “sociological imagination”, a faculty that allows us to see the way the world is, and to imagine how it might have been, or might become, different. Once you do so, you will be able to develop a deeper understanding of how social factors have influenced you in the past and will continue to influence you in the future.

**SOCIOLOGY 101.H03: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 2:50PM – 4:05PM Professor Laura Brashears
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students**

Each of us has an idea of what is meant by the word “society:” the people we live with, the work we do, and the government agencies that touch our lives. We live in particular places, work at specific businesses, and belong to our own groups. And while we must experience society from our own individual perspectives, none of those individual perspectives can encompass the totality of each of our experiences. Sociologists seek to examine the social world through an objective lens, rising above individual experiences to understand the whole. In other words, sociologists do not take the world before their eyes for granted; rather, we use scientific methods to gain a deeper understanding of how “society is inside of man and man is inside society.”

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SOCIOLOGY 101.H04: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **4:25PM – 5:40PM** ***Professor Shane Thye***
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

CONTENT: This survey course covers many aspects of modern sociology. The course begins with an overview of the origins of sociology. Then the course covers a survey of sociological research methods and the role of science in sociology. Theoretical perspectives on social life are covered along with sociological treatments of societal institutions. Theories of socialization, deviance, family, group dynamics and organizations are also covered. Student assessment takes the form of four examinations and a short film assignment. Students should gain a grasp of the role of social structures on individual lives and an understanding of the role of sociology in the modern world.

SOCIOLOGY 101.J10: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** ***Hanne van der lest***

This course is a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Throughout the semester, we will practice taking a sociological perspective – assessing the effects of context, social forces, and society on individuals, and the effects of individual behavior on shaping social environments. We will discuss how knowledge accumulates in social science by discussing sociological methods of research. Due to the breadth of the discipline of sociology, this course will take a topical approach – discussing some of the most important lines of inquiry in the field.

SOCIOLOGY 101.J11: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** ***Professor Barry Markovsky***

CONTENT: In this course you will learn about society by looking at "the big picture"—our systems of education, government, economy, race relations, religion. You will also learn about how you fit into that big picture by looking at the ways individuals are impacted by social ties and group memberships. Sociology provides a unique scientific perspective on human behavior by tracing how social processes shape individuals and, in turn, how social processes are created and maintained by the actions and interactions of people. This course will help you to develop a critical understanding of these processes and phenomena.

SOCIOLOGY 101.J13: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** ***Hanne van der lest***

This course is a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Throughout the semester, we will practice taking a sociological perspective – assessing the effects of context, social forces, and society on individuals, and the effects of individual behavior on shaping social environments. We will discuss how knowledge accumulates in social science by discussing sociological methods of research. Due to the breadth of the discipline of sociology, this course will take a topical approach – discussing some of the most important lines of inquiry in the field.

SOCIOLOGY 220.1: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM Professor Douglas Anderton

CONTENT: The goal of this course is to improve statistical literacy and provide the skills necessary to conduct basic statistical analysis in the course of sociological research. The course provides a standard introduction to descriptive, inferential and explanatory statistical methods. However, emphasis is also placed on practical applications in the form of spreadsheet and statistical software exercises working from the early stage of data entry through to completed statistical analyses using sociological data. Understanding key concepts will require basic math and benefit from having completed your ARP requirements. However, the emphasis of the course is on statistical concepts and applications rather than a narrowly formulaic mathematical approach to statistics.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly labs will count for one third of the grade, tests will count for another third of the grade and a final statistical analysis assignment will comprise the remainder of the grade. Standard USC attendance policies will be enforced.

FORMAT: Weekly Lecture, Weekly Lab/Computer Session with Assignment, Three exams. Final written analysis assignment.

SOCIOLOGY 301.J10 SEX AND GENDER ONLINE TBA Professor Carla Pfeffer

This is an asynchronous, fully online, distributed learning course. Sociology is a social science seeking to better understand how individuals, groups, social systems/structures and cultures shape (and are shaped by) one another. In this course, we will use a sociological lens to focus on the topics of sex and gender. While our focus will be on sex and gender, we will also study how other identities influence and affect gendered identities and experiences. A primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the perspectives and empirical findings on sex and gender in sociology, as well as to apply this empirical evidence to real-world experiences. Of critical importance is the goal of cultivating your skills for analyzing the social situations and events that you encounter in your everyday lives. Throughout this course, emphasis will be placed on developing critical and integrative ways of thinking about sex and gender as social processes in our everyday lives. This is not a course exclusively about women and women's experiences. In this course, we will consider how sex and gender shape and affect the experiences of women, men, girls, boys, and individuals who live in the spaces in-between these categories (e.g., those who are intersex, transgender, transsexual, etc.).

SOCIOLOGY 301.J11 SEX AND GENDER ONLINE TBA Professor Carla Pfeffer

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SOCIOLOGY 302.J10: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY ONLINE TBA Professor Mathieu Deflem

This is a fully online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard. The course presents an introduction to selected developments in sociological theory. The course's approach is both chronological and perspective-oriented, including classical as well as modern and contemporary theories. The selection of theories is focused on the foundations of sociological theory and its contrasting variations. Special attention will be paid to exploring the fruitfulness of the introduced theoretical ideas for the empirical analysis of various substantive matters of society. Applications and research examples will pertain to such social issues as law, deviance, culture, family, religion, and politics.

SOCIOLOGY 303.1: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS TR 8:30AM – 9:45AM *Professor Jennifer Augustine*

You are always observing the world around you. If you're paying attention, you have questions about why things are the way they are. Why do the rich live longer than the poor? Why do children of single mothers have lower test scores than children who grow up with two parents? Why are women in the United States paid less than men? These are important questions, but how do we answer them? The aim of this course is to teach you how to investigate such sociological questions by providing you a range of tools for studying the world around you. These tools will encompass the various research methods and skills used by sociologists. Such knowledge and skills will allow you to identify important research questions, design a study that you will carry out, and critically evaluate the research of others.

SOCIOLOGY 304.1: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & SEXUALITY TR 2:50PM – 4:05PM *Professor Jaclyn Wong*
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

In this course students will learn to think critically about race, class, gender, and sexual identity from a sociological perspective. Students will engage with classic and contemporary theoretical and empirical scholarly readings as well as materials from popular culture and current events to explore how race, class, gender, and sexual identity structure our daily lives. This course emphasizes inequality and stratification, and will discuss racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism, as well as possibilities for social change.

SOCIOLOGY 305.1: SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES TR 11:40AM – 12:55PM *Professor Jennifer Augustine*

CONTENT: This course focuses on families in the contemporary U.S. from a sociological perspective. We will do so by examining theories and empirical research on the family as a social institution. We begin the course by discussing the U.S. family in historical context, then fast forward to exploring changes in the family over the past several decades and the reasons underlying these changes. Lecture and discussions will address topics such as demographic changes in marital patterns, women's fertility behaviors, the role of women's paid employment and its connection to domestic work and caregiving, the social roles of mothers and fathers, the relationship between parents and their children, and the emergence and significance of "new" family forms, including interracial, same-sex, cohabiting unions, and transnational families. More broadly, we will also examine differences in family life along dimensions of social class, race and ethnic background, and gender, and debate questions about whether recent changes in family life are "good" or "bad." We will conclude with a debate on the future of the family.

SOCIOLOGY 310.1: SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHY MWF 8:30AM – 9:20AM *Professor Caroline Hartnett*

CONTENT: One of the most interesting stories of the last few centuries is our changing demography. During this time our life expectancy has increased dramatically and the number of children we have has declined. Our family structures have changed, as has our relationship with the environment. This course is an introduction to the major topics in the study of demography – specifically: mortality, fertility, and migration – and their implications for society and public policy. We will cover population change in both developed and developing countries, focusing on trends and driving factors. Throughout the course we will highlight policy-relevant issues such as global "overpopulation," migration streams, urbanization, fertility policy, population aging, and the global burden of disease.

SOCIOLOGY 340.1: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS MWF 9:40AM – 10:30AM *Professor Diego Leal Castro*

CONTENT: What are some of the most urgent social problems confronting American society today and what kind of solutions may be possible? How does life in contemporary American society differ from life in other societies or from past eras in the U.S.? These and many other similar questions will be at the heart of this course. In deciding which questions to focus on, we are guided by the fact that Americans overwhelmingly report valuing the 3 Fs: freedom, fairness and flourishing. In this class we will interrogate the extent to which contemporary American society lives up to these values.

SOCIOLOGY 355.1: RACE & ETHNIC RELATIONS MWF 10:50AM – 11:40AM *Professor Diego Leal Castro*

This course is an introduction to critical theories of race and racism. Historical and sociological investigations on racial formations maintain that race is not a “biological” reality but a socio-historical construction with profound impacts on people and society. Thus, it is important to examine what kind of social construction is race and how it creates a particular system of oppression that intersects with others spheres of domination associated with gender, class, ethnicity, and nationality. In this course, we will explore race as a modern and colonial category aimed to legitimate practices of domination against negatively racialized subjects.

SOCIOLOGY 360.1: SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH MW 2:20PM – 3:35PM *Professor Caroline Hartnett*

This is a reading intensive course in which students are expected to participate in class discussions. The determinants of health – both for individuals and for populations – are not just medical or biological, but are shaped in large part by our social environments. The likelihood that we achieve good health and maintain it over the life course varies depending on our socioeconomic status, gender, race-ethnicity, and other factors. We will describe how health status is influenced by these factors and why, discussing both theoretical perspectives and empirical research findings. We will also discuss how researchers approach studying the social determinants of health, including how health is conceptualized and measured, at both the individual and group level. Finally, we will discuss sociological perspectives on the field of medicine, particularly how power and status operate within this area.

SOCIOLOGY 507.J56: SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL CONTROL ONLINE TBA *Professor Mathieu Deflem*

This is a fully online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard. The objectives of this upper-level undergraduate course are to engage students in the sociological study of social control, i.e., the definition of and response to crime and/or deviance. The course primarily deals with the official treatment of crime through a formal system of criminal justice. The specific themes of this course include an overview of relevant sociological theories and traces the history of the concept of social control in American sociology. We also discuss the perspective of discipline and its relevance for the study of social control. Additional attention goes to contemporary forms of surveillance and the role of police, including international police cooperation. And, finally, we will analyze in some detail various aspects of the policing of terrorism, both at home and abroad.

SOCIOLOGY 515.1: SCIENTIFIC METHODS & SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY MW 3:55PM – 5:10PM *Professor Barry Markovsky*

This course examines the nature of scientific theory, with special emphasis on its development and application to sociological questions. We cover the distinction between science and pseudoscience; the elements and design of theories; the analysis and improvement of theories; discovering and building connections across theories; and using theories to motivate and guide research and applications. Students will gain experience in theoretical analysis by applying basic logical and semantic methods taught early in the course. Students also may develop their own lines of original work. With its major focus on the acquisition and application of analytic tools, knowledge gained from this course can be used to improve the theoretical integrity of any area in sociology.

SOCIOLOGY 557.1: SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION & INEQUALITY MW 2:20PM – 3:35PM *Professor Laura Brashears*

CONTENT: Are schools the great equalizer in the United States? We will tackle this “big question” in Sociology of Education and Inequality this semester. To tackle this question, we will first need to think about what we believe education is. We have all had experiences at school, and have developed beliefs about how schools work, why some people achieve more at school, why certain groups have systematically different educational outcomes, and how we might change or improve our education system.

In this class, we will challenge and expand our preexisting beliefs of these issues, by critically engaging with literature in sociology and elsewhere. I encourage you to use our conversations to broaden your understanding of how education works as we think about the role of school structure, families, cultural and social capital, and social networks in creating and reproducing inequality, and then turn our attention to how we might improve educational institutions.

SOCIOLOGY 720.1 SURVEY OF RESEARCH METHODS T 6:00PM – 8:45PM *Professor Shane Thye*

CONTENT: This course focuses on the range of methodological approaches adopted by social scientists. Special attention is paid to the role of sociological theory in the design of research.

Students who take this course are expected to have knowledge of introductory statistics and an interest in conducting original empirical research. This class is comprised of numerous components. We first consider basic research concepts, theory, and fundamentals. We then examine and consider with a more critical focus, the primary methods that sociologists traditionally used to acquire data; surveys, in-depth interviews, ethnographic methods, experiments, and archival methods, as well as the mixing of methods.

SOCIOLOGY 731.1 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

TR

1:15PM – 2:30PM

Professor Matthew Brashears

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to more exotic versions of linear models allowing the analysis of data that do not conform to the assumptions of OLS regression. OLS is a powerful technique, but makes a number of assumptions that are difficult or impossible to substantiate in many real-world applications. As a consequence, its versatility is more apparent than real. We will explore a variety of alternative “flavors” of regression, as well as one non-regression based technique, allowing the researcher to address questions in these alternative cases. We will not have time to cover all possible models, but will instead explore a selection of models based on their utility in conducting social research and/or their conceptual usefulness in introducing classes of models. We will also learn about implementations of these techniques in Stata.

By the completion of class (i.e., our course objectives) students should be familiar with multiple non-OLS approaches to data analysis, be capable of using these techniques to analyze unfamiliar data, and should have continued to develop their skills with appropriate statistical software.
